

Schools May Face New Financial Crisis, Warning

Dr. Hull Warns of Tax Plight

Clouds of further tax increases unless use of the entire 75 cents override levy can be avoided were seen this week by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District.

He said that the district seeks to hold the line short of using the entire override, but the financial future hinges on several factors.

Dr. Hull estimated the schools will need a \$9,750,000 operating budget next year when he addressed the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee Monday.

Rising Costs

Rising costs and higher enrollment will increase next year's budget. To maintain the present school program in the face of these increases, he listed these requirements:

1. At least \$19,000,000 in increased assessed valuation.
2. Approval of Gov. Brown's budget as it presently stands, with some increases in amount of state support per pupil.
3. An additional 8.5 cents of the override tax authorized by voters in 1955.

Salary Hikes

The district is presently using 58 cents of the authorized 75 cents override.

Dr. Hull said that Torrance may have to raise salaries of its staff to keep up with other districts and with the cost of living. He explained that salaries account for about 85 per cent of school spending.

The superintendent warned if the full amount of the override is used next year, it might leave the district in the hole the following year unless a new tax is authorized.

New Bus Service Revealed

Route changes caused by the transfer of the Torrance Municipal Bus depot were announced by Superintendent Marshall Chamberlain this week.

Beginning Sunday the buses will arrive and depart from a triangular park at Torrance Blvd., Sartori and Engracia Aves., as result of abandonment of the present terminus at Cravens and Cabrillo Aves.

Also effective this date the Los Angeles-Torrance and Long Beach-El Nido Line routes will use Cabrillo and Torrance Blvd. both directions.

Walteria Line—Inbound from the intersection of Carson and Arlington via Arlington, Marcelina, Cravens, Torrance Blvd. to Terminal, Engracia and Sartori. Outbound via Sartori, Torrance Blvd., Cabrillo, Gramercy, Cravens, Carson, then regular route.

Kettler Knolls—Inbound from intersection of Carson and Cabrillo via Cravens, Torrance Blvd. to Terminal, Engracia and Sartori.

Outbound via Sartori, Torrance Blvd., Cabrillo, Gramercy, Cravens, Cabrillo, then regular route.

Hollywood, Riviera Line—Inbound from the intersection of Carson and Arlington via Arlington, Marcelina, Cravens, Torrance Blvd. to Terminal, Engracia and Sartori.

Outbound via Sartori, Torrance Blvd., Cabrillo, Gramercy, Cravens, Cabrillo, then regular route.

El Camino College Line—Leave Terminal both directions via Torrance Blvd., Western and regular route.

Flu Cuts Attendance

Widespread attacks of the flu have caused a drop in attendance, officials of the Torrance Unified School District said this week.

Average absenteeism factor has risen from approximately 7 to 11 per cent since Easter. Most of the absences are due to flu, nurses said.

KAMRATH HONORED

Wilbur C. (Bill) Kamrath, coordinator of publications at El Camino College since 1953, a 1941 journalism graduate at Santa Ana College, has been chosen to receive a Journalism Alumni Achievement Award at the sixth annual SAC Journalism Workshops today.



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Speed 'War' Demanded

Police Use of Radar Urged by Group

A three-pronged attack on mounting traffic accidents will be recommended by the Traffic Commission next week.

Three major suggestions will be contained in the campaign advocated by the commission. They are:

Population Count to Be Bared

Preliminary results of the special population census may be revealed next week, Supervisor Vernon L. Miller disclosed today.

He announced that nearly all the 102 enumerators have completed canvassing the city, and clerks are now tabulating the results.

Several enumerators have been retained to make spot checks throughout the city, at homes where occupants were not in during the original canvass.

In order to obtain a complete count of the population, the Torrance Press is cooperating by publishing a form today which can be mailed in to census officials by persons who have not been contacted by an enumerator.

Miller pointed out that the city receives approximately \$5 per person a year from State funds distributed on a pro rata basis.

Torrance officials are confident the nose-count will reveal a population of more than 100,000.

YOUNGSTER INJURED

Gary Mount, 13, was pierced by a dart in a playground accident at the Arlington School, Monday, police reported.

1. Use of radar equipment to trip speeders.

2. A priority program for signals.

3. Elimination of "chicken" citations.

"War on speed will be our number one campaign against the rising accident toll," declared Councilman Nickolas O. Draile, new chairman of the commission.

Portable Radar

He said that his group will recommend that portable radar equipment be purchased for use on major trouble spots, beginning with Pacific Coast Highway.

"Linked with this, will be concentration by police on major offenders and simultaneous drop of citation for 'borderline' infractions.

Draile said that he has received a number of complaints about "chicken" citations received by motorists.

He explained that Pacific Coast Highway, Hawthorne and Crenshaw Blvds., Western Ave. and 174th St., all high speed roads, have the major share of accidents, according to police statistics.

Illegal Turns

Illegal turns and reckless driving, including unsafe lane changes were listed as the next most frequent accident causes.

Draile noted that his group is recommending that \$50,000 be set aside in the next budget for signal installations on a priority basis.

Under the plan the public works department will cooperate with the Traffic Commission in the design of needed signals. At the same time Draile said the commission will not recommend the installation of any more "Chinese Lantern" signals now hanging in the middle of many intersections.

Probe Delays

The hanging signals cost approximately \$800 each compared with \$4500 and up for the regular signals.

Draile also called for an investigation in the lengthy delays between the time the City Council orders a signal installed and the time it's finally put in place.

He cited that a signal at Crenshaw and Lomita Blvds. was ordered by the council two or three months ago. When the engineering department was finally asked what had become of the project, it was explained that it had not been notified of the job.

Draile also said that plans have been ready for left-turn pockets at 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., but the installation has not taken place.

Seek Additional Signatures for Water Merger

Additional signatures for petition to annex the Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2 to Los Angeles County Water District No. 13, are requested this week by proponents of the merger.

Mrs. Peggy Carter, of 24524 Eshelman Ave., also asked residents who own shares in the Narbonne Water Company, to furnish that information to her.

Petitions are also being circulated by Mrs. Desirie Myers, DA 6-3714 and Mrs. M. Osborne, 24676 Woodward Ave.

If sufficient signatures are obtained, the Board of Supervisors will call an election.

Haunted by Own Error Driver Assists Police

Sometimes the shock of a tragic experience can jar a man from a path that would bound him for the rest of his life.

This happened to George William Souder, 21, who learned a hard lesson the night of March 20 when by his own admission he caused the injury of six persons in a traffic accident while he was driving under the influence of alcohol.

Four children and their mother were among those injured in the accident at Cabrillo Ave. and Plaza del Amo. The horror of what he had caused lingered in the mind of Souder, a plumber, of 1940 W. 145th St., Gardena, three weeks later when he observed a car smash down a signal post at 174th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. Souder trailed the erratic-

ly driven vehicle east until he reached Western Ave. From a phone booth he called Torrance police, described the other vehicle, and then jumped back into his own car to follow it.

When the two cars reached Compton, Souder called police of that city who arrested the driver on a charge of drunk driving.

The driver of the car, Clayton Hugh Lyle, 50, of Lynwood, pleaded guilty to the intoxication charge and Torrance police have filed a hit and run charge against him for striking the signal post and leaving the scene.

Souder, who has pleaded guilty to drunk driving in connection with his own accident, said he did not help the police to lessen his own punishment

when he is sentenced here on May 5.

"Anything I got coming I deserve," he declared. "I made the mistake—it reminded me of the hurt little baby I held in my own arms—why not stop somebody else from going through the hell that I went through?"

The young driver insisted that his own accident taught him an important lesson and helped him to straighten himself out.

"I cannot take the fear off the baby's chest. All I can do is make amends and really try. I hope the other driver understands why I turned him in. I did it to keep him from hurting somebody else. I know how he would have felt if he had hurt someone."



HONOR TREASURER—W. E. Bowen, treasurer of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors for the past four years, was presented with a plaque for his services Tuesday by President Kenneth Miller, right, while Mayor Albert Isen, who was speaker at the Realtor breakfast, looks on. Press Photo

Realtors Urged to Aid City

Growing faster than the communities they serve, members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors were urged to take an active part in civic affairs when they met for breakfast in honor of National Realtors Week Tuesday at the Torrance YWCA.

Mayor Albert Isen presented Kenneth Miller, board president, with a proclamation urging the City of Torrance to join in the week's celebration and in his speech stressed the realtors' civic responsibilities and asked that particular attention be paid the rising tax structure.

Mrs. Rose Craig introduced the official guests, Isen, Councilman Nicholas O. Draile, Planning Director George Powell and City Manager George Stevens.

Donald Hitchcock, the new board attorney for this year, was introduced and W. E. Bowen, treasurer, 1954-58, was presented a plaque in appreciation of his work.

Don Huston and Kenneth Miller, president, installed the 28 new members of the board. They are:

Salesman members: Gene Payne, Stanley Crawford, Dorothy Stratton, C. I. Schmidt, William Wright, David Williams, Robert Gonnou, Robert Hatcher, Wilber Beckett, Clyde Peterson.

Frank Kirkpatrick, Joseph Weintraub, Sara Winer, Loretta Browning, Arthur Hedrick, William Snyder, Jack Stager, Walter Sheehan, Edward Murphy, Leon Kennedy, Clarence Scott, Alan Mosk, Erwin Moore, Wallace Steinhilber, H. L. Rushfeldt.

New broker members installed were Amelia Deaves, Dorothy McNary and Hazel Wright.

Woman Commits Suicide, Hangs Self in Garage

Despondent over having to return to the hospital, Mrs. Irene M. Bryant hanged herself in her garage at 1823 Gramercy Pl., police reported.

The body of the housewife was discovered by police after they received a call from her husband, Jess, asking them to check the garage Sunday morning.

He told officers that he had not seen his wife since Friday afternoon before he went to work and that when he did not see her Saturday, believed she was visiting friends.

Residents Win Monterey Battle for Wide Buffer

Two groups of residents won their points during a jammed City Council meeting Tuesday.

An easy victory went to the Parkway PTA, which was promised a signal at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Calle Miramar, while residents on and near Monterey St. were given assurance of a 100-foot buffer strip between them and a new steel fabricating plant.

Following a lengthy discussion the council unanimously ordered the Planning Commission to provide for the buffer strip south of Monterey on all property owned by the Santa Fe Railroad.

Sole exception was an office building to be constructed by the R. C. Mahon Co., which can be located within 50 feet of Monterey St.

Charles Dougherty, an official of the railroad company, insisted that his firm had offered the 100-foot strip right along, but councilmen argued that they were told that the Mahon Company would not locate in Torrance if more than a 50-foot buffer strip was required.

Mayor Albert Isen at one point in the meeting referred to Dougherty as being "foxy."

But David Figueredo, member of the Planning Commission, said that the 100-foot buffer, requested by residents, had been urged all along by the Planning Commission.

W. T. Mitchell, who will manage the Mahon Torrance division, appeared somewhat dubious as to

Dougherty's offer of the buffer, but declined further comment.

Alan Moore, spokesman for the Monterey property residents, a high school mathematics instructor, summed up the council's action as the best we can hope for provided the Mahon Company agrees to the action.

Barber School Grad Nabbed for Clipping Store

A Torrance man who is said to have just graduated from barber college, was arrested on suspicion of robbing a Compton drug store of \$600 and narcotics last week.

Compton and Torrance detectives nabbed Frank Anthony Carcerano, 22, in his home at 2830 Gramercy Place Monday night.

Detectives said they trailed the suspect through the license number of a car used in the holdup furnished by a witness.

LEAGUE SPRING

A. S. Hegge, president of Lomita Little League announced that Lomita Little League will hold its annual spring parents meeting, April 18 at 9 a.m. at Chandler Field. Parents of all Lomita Little League boys are urged to attend. Topics of interest to all will be discussed.



ENTERS CONTEST—Elizabeth Zorsentino, 19, is the second entry in the Miss Torrance contest. In addition to her obvious assets, the Torrance High School graduate has done some singing and acting. Her vital statistics are 34-22-34. —Press Photo

Lawyer Turns Doctor Delivers Own Baby

A Torrance attorney demonstrated that he might have done as well in another profession—medicine.

Herman Hitt, 39, of 3022 Sonoma St., received the praise of physicians after he delivered a premature baby born to his wife, Elizabeth, 30, Sunday.

Mrs. Hitt had come down with chickenpox about a week before the baby was expected, so everything had been set up for the delivery.

Hitt got in touch with his doctor, Dr. Donald E. King, of Long Beach, when his wife began having labor pains. The doctor was out on another case, so Hitt received telephone instructions from his associate, Dr. David Gean.

While the physician and another doctor hurried to Hitt's home, the father was busy delivering the baby, a girl, and the couple's fourth child. She was named Martha.

"A wonderful job," commented Dr. King, crediting the attorney with cool-headed proficiency as an amateur obstetrician.

"Everything happened so fast," sighed the dazed father.

DISCUSS POOL DRIVE

A fund campaign to finance construction of a therapy pool at the Harlan Shoemaker School for Handicapped Children will be discussed Monday at 10 a. m. in the Palms Restaurant. Chairman George Vico announced. Refreshments will be served.

SEEK WITNESS

A young man who witnessed an accident at 174th St. and Prairie Ave., Sunday at around 8:10 p.m., was requested to contact Mrs. Louis M. Houck of 3223 West 186th St., or call her at DA 4-0896.



BATTER UP—Dr. Al Cline, chairman of the Civitan Club pancake breakfast to be held Saturday from 6 to 11 a. m. in the Civic Auditorium, gives Betty Baker, Miss Torrance, some hints on how to make flapjacks. Proceeds from event will finance club's Shoes for Needy Children program and other service activities. —Press Photo

For Walteria Circus Show and Sale

SEE SPECIAL SECOND SECTION